

REMARKS:

Claims 1-9 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0119001). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The present application takes priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 from Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-369163, which was filed October 29, 2003.

Since Applicant's priority date predates Watanabe's filing date of July 6, 2004, the rejection under § 102(e) based on Watanabe can be overcome by perfecting Applicant's claim of priority. MPEP 706.02(b). A claim of priority is perfected by filing a certified priority document, filing an English translation thereof if the document is not in English and after the examiner establishes that the priority document satisfies the enablement and description requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. MPEP 706.02(b).

Submitted herewith is a certified English translation of the priority document. A certified copy of the priority document was previously submitted to the Office. Applicant respectfully submits that the priority document satisfies the enablement and description requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. As such, Applicant has perfected his claim of priority, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/577,703
Amdt. Dated March 25, 2009
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2008

Attorney Docket No. 81887.0145
Customer No.: 26021

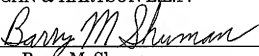
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, in view of the foregoing remarks, are requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (310) 785-4600 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: March 25, 2009

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